

Bozrah Town Hall
Fitchville
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-243

HABS
CONN
6-FITCH
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

BOZRAH TOWN HALL

HABS
CONN.
G-FITCH
1-

Location: Fitchville, New London County, Connecticut

Present Owner: Town of Bozrah

Present Occupant: Town clerk, tax collector, and visiting nurse.

Present Use: Offices and meetings

Brief Statement of Significance: This two-story stone structure is representative of the buildings Asa Fitch had built between 1832 and 1865 during the period of the development of the mill village of Fitchville.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Original owner Asa Fitch. Purchased by the Town of Bozrah in 1949.
2. Date of erection: Between 1832 and 1865.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: The doorway on the northeast side has been recently changed, and the center window on the second floor, southeast wall, which was originally higher than the others, has been lowered to the same height. The interior has been remodeled by the present owners with offices on the first floor, and an assembly room and a store room on the second floor.

Before being acquired by the Town of Bozrah, the building served various purposes and has been used as a social hall, and at an earlier time as a sericulture plant.

For many years the middle section of the first floor was used as a fire house.

4. Sources of information: Frances Manwaring Caulkins, History of Norwich, Connecticut, from its possession by the Indians to the year 1866, Appendix containing notes and sketches, continuing the History to the close of the year 1873 (Norwich, Connecticut: Published by the Friends of the Author, revised edition 1874), pp. 437, 438, 617, 618.
Benjamin Tinkham Marshall, editor, A Modern History of New London County, Connecticut, 3 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1922) p. 205, 228

Interview with Mrs. John (Margaret) Blanch, Bozrah Town Clerk, Fitchville, Connecticut, on October 28, 1960, by Osmund R. Overby.

Interview with Mrs. Albert H. Chase, 1 Sachem Terrace, Norwich, Connecticut, on October 28, 1960, by Osmund R. Overby.

Interview with Jerry J. Sullivan, Fitchville, Connecticut, on October 26, 1960, by Osmund R. Overby.

HABS
CONN
6-FITCH
1-

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Bozrah, originally included in the Town of Norwich, was incorporated as a separate town in 1786 with an area of 12,357 acres. Fitchville, the principal village in Bozrah, occupies the site of the Huntington Iron-Works which was established in 1750. Beginning in 1832, the village was greatly expanded by Asa Fitch who built among other things a large mill, the church, his own large mansion with extensive gardens, and most of the houses in the village. Fitch died October 30, 1865. F. M. Caulkins, History of Norwich, Connecticut, describes Fitch as the "originator of his plans, the director, overseer and paymaster of the whole."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This two-story structure is representative of several large buildings in Fitchville built during this period.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Rectangular plan about 30' (3 bays) x 40' (5 bays) 2-1/2 stories high with a small one-story, stone wing on the rear.
2. Foundations: Stone
3. Wall construction: Range coursed ashlar.
4. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys, one at each end wall.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Eight panel entrance doors at each corner deeply set in paneled architraves. A wide, two-leaf door with a paneled round head is placed at the center of the southeast side. Each leaf of the door is eight paneled.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Round-headed, double-hung windows, 18 over 12 light. 14 light, semi-circular,

HABS
CONN
6-243

fixed sash over the entrances. Round-headed 14 over 4 light double-hung window above two-leaf door. There are no shutters.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eave with large cyma versa crown mold and dentil course.

C. Technical Description of Interior: The interior has been remodeled by the present owners with offices on the first floor, and an assembly room and a storeroom on the second floor.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces northeast on a large, fairly level lot.
2. Driveway: A gravel asphalt driveway with parking area encircles the building.
3. Landscaping: No landscaping, untended grass and large trees are around the edge of the lot.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania
October 1960